2d Report Fa 1851

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CHRONICLE AND NEWS---EXTRA.

SABBATH REFORMATION SOCIETY.

The Anniversary of this Society was held in the City Hall, on Thursday evening, 22d January. Captain Wright, R. A., occupied the chair. The Rev. Hannibal Mulkins opened the meeting with prayer. The Rev. R. F. Burns, Corresponding Secretary, read the Report.

After the reading of the Report the following resolutions were submitted:—

Moved by Rev. R. V. Rogers, seconded by Dr. Fraser, R. B.,

I. That the Report now read be adopted, and that the following be the list of office-bearers for the ensuing year.

President, Lieut. Colonel Lawrence, Rifle Brigade.

Vice Presidents, Rev. R. V. Rogers, Rev. Samuel D. Rice, and Captain Stace, R. A.

Treasurer, William Ferguson, Esq.

Corresponding Secretary, Rev. R. F. Burns.

Recording Secretary, Neil McLeod, Esq.

Committee—Ministers of the Gospel who are members of this Society, John Counter, Esq., Capt. Hamilton, R. A., Capt. Wright, R. A., Dr. Fraser, R. A., Messrs. James Stewart, George Hardy, J. J. Haines, George Marriott, R. M. Rose, James Gray, with power to add to their number.

Moved by Rev. R. F. Burns, seconded by Rev. H. Mulkins,

II. That it is the duty of every lover of God and man to rally round the Sabbath as being essential to the being as well as the well-being of the Institutions of Christianity—as forming the grand protection of civil and religious liberty—and as fitted to confer on the human family innumerable blessings, physical, intellectual, social and spiritual.

Moved by Rev. Alex. Lorimer, seconded by Rev. H. Gordon, Gananoque,

III. That the present aspect of the times in general, and the prospect that exists of a large increase of travelling by reason of the introduction of Railways into Canada, in particular, should stimulate to a renewal of the agitation on the subject of the Sabbath with redoubled energy and devotedness.

REPORT.

It is cause of gratitude that the interest in the important objects your Society contemplates has upon the whole been sustained during the past year, and that the likelihood of substantial results flowing from its operations has increased rather than diminished. Your Committee have all along felt that the success of their efforts depended under God mainly on the dissemination throughout the mass of the community of clear and correct views respecting the character and claims of the Sabbath; that in order to securing a hearty co-operation in the adoption of any

important objects your Society contemplates has upon the whole been sustained during the

ings of a hopeful kind were held, and practical measures were adopted.

From a variety of causes your Committee were not able to overtake all the places above enumerated, but enough was done to show that the plan was entirely feasible, and that if efficiently carried out success would be by no means problematical. They accordingly resolved a few weeks ago on resuming it. The number of localities was increased to twenty-six—apportioned off on the same principle as before. It is their hearts' desire and prayer that the respected brethren to whom the Executive of this Department has been more immediately entrusted, may experience the presence and power of the Lord of the Sabbath, and the willing co-operation of those to whom visits may be paid or communications directed.

Your Committee have during the past year made the Sabbath Desecration in the Post-office again the subject of their special efforts. From our own city three memorials were dispatched to the three branches of the Legislature. One from the public meeting convened in January last; a second from our Society in its corporate capacity, signed by the office-bearers and members of Committee; and a third from the community in general, having affixed to it the names of our most respectable citizens—not professional men merely, though these are fully represented—but the sinews of our strength—the great bulk and body of our merchants and artizans. At one time it was proposed that memorials should be despatched by each separate congregation in the city or the official members of each, but it was deemed expedient in present circumstances not unduly to multiply petitions; and this mode of evoking public sentiment was accordingly postponed till (if necessary) a future stage of the Agitation.

From several quarters beyond the limits of our city, memorials were sent us for transmission, as the result of the plan to which reference is made above. The thriving village of Napanee sent one with about 150 names appended; Gananoque, with 500; Ramsey, with the representatives of a congregation of 600; and Portsmouth, with the townships of Kingston, Storrington, and Portland, sent in theirs more or less numerously signed.

The thanks of your Committee are due to the Hon. Messrs. Lesslie and Price for so kindly consenting to present these memorials to the Houses of Legislature.

It is ground of thankfulness that during the last session of Parliament 69 petitions were presented on the matter of the Post-office. Your Committee would take this opportunity of noticing that two or three of those committed to them for transmission to Head-quarters, were returned in consequence of an informality which, though seemingly slight in itself, nevertheless prevented their presentation. No *signatures were inserted on the original paper whereon the petition itself* was written. This is essential to render-

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pointed to look after this important matter, and particularly to wait on the principal forwarders, in order to gather information, and to discover their views.

Convinced that it would be of great consequence to secure the continuance and co-operation of the different religious bodies throughout the Province, your committee resolved on respectfully requesting them to give prominence to the subject of the Sabbath in the deliberations of their respective judicatures.

A copy of this resolution was sent to six distinct denominations whose supreme courts assembled in June and July.

It is gratifying to your committee to note some additional indications of progress which the past year has supplied. In April an encouraging movement was made in Montreal.

A vigorous association was established, and a periodical entitled the "Sabbath Advocate" set agoing, intended to form a medium of communication for the friends of the cause in both sections of the Province. The association has already done good service. Of the "Advocate" only two numbers have as yet appeared. From the matter original and selected, it promises to be a useful handmaid.

Your Committee have gratefully to acknowledge the generous grant of 300 copies of the first number: they have given an order for 200 copies of every succeeding one. A friendly correspondence has been entered into betwixt the two societies which we trust may prove of mutual advantage.

At Gananoque, Bath, Spencerville, in the neighborhood of Prescott, Associations have also been organized, with which we have had intercourse either direct or by letter.

A long and interesting communication has been received from Dr. Greville, Secretary of the Scottish Sabbath Alliance, in reply to one from your Committee: it speaks of the gratification which the movement in Canada has produced in Scotland, and the proceedings past, present, and prospective, of the Alliance there. From the intense excitement caused by the Great Exhibition and the Papal Aggression, their operations have been temporarily suspended, but they are again preparing to muster and to take the field. "We have one comfort," writes the Doctor, "that should we fail in closing the Post Office on the Sabbath, the very agitation of the question has done incalculable good. The Churches have taken up the general question more prominently, and we now comparatively rarely hear those sneers with which we were assailed a few years ago."

Your Committee have also had a correspondence of a very cordial kind with the Lord's day Society in London. The communication from Mr Baylee, the respected Secretary, contains sentiments and breathes a spirit similar to the one from Edinburgh. Both these societies have, in the most liberal manner, made over to your Committee several thousand of the principal tracts published under their auspices, for which sea-

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important objects your Society contemplates has upon the whole been sustained during the past year, and that the likelihood of substantial results flowing from its operations has increased rather than diminished. Your Committee have all along felt that the success of their efforts depended under God mainly on the dissemination throughout the mass of the community of clear and correct views respecting the character and claims of the Sabbath; that in order to securing a hearty co-operation in the adoption of any practical measures for preventing the desecration and promoting the observance of the Sabbath, it was essential to have deepened in the public mind the conviction of the divinity of its origin—the perpetuity of its obligation—and the blessings temporal and spiritual it is fitted to confer. Acting on this principle, a proposal was made last year to have one Sabbath day devoted throughout the Province to simultaneous preaching on the subject. So far as we have been enabled to learn, it was pretty generally entered into, and the influence exerted was decidedly of a salutary kind. Your Committee, therefore, felt encouraged to renew the proposal this year; and publicity was given to it through the columns of some of the leading journals. The day suggested was the same as on the previous occasion, viz: the third Sabbath in January; and we humbly trust the recommendation may have met with a response no less hearty and harmonious.

By the repetition of the same day, it may in future years come to be regarded as one to be specially devoted to the advocacy of this holy cause, and to be adopted as such, without the necessity of any such special intimation.

One thousand five hundred copies of last report were printed, accompanied with the constitution of our Society, a model petition on the subject of the Post-office, and an appeal for a renewal of the agitation on that important subject. These were addressed to all the ministers of religion throughout the land—to most of the members of both Houses of the Legislature, and to the editors and proprietors of several influential papers, in addition to a pretty full circulation within the limits of our own city.

In the month of May last an effort was made by your Committee to have lectures delivered and public meetings held at certain places falling within a prescribed range. The object was threefold—1. To diffuse sound scriptural views on the general subject. 2. To get memorials framed and forwarded on the special matter of the Post-office. 3. If possible to secure the establishment of Associations similar to our own. The places marked out were—Portsmouth, Waterloo, Ballynahinch, Storrington, Mill Creek, Napanee, Wolfe Island, Amherst Island, Bath, Fredericksburg, Picton, Adolphustown, Demorestville, Tyendinaga, Huntingdon, Belleville, Barriefield, Gananoque, Brockville, Prescott, Perth, Smith's Falls, Pittsburg.

The services of several ministers were called into requisition, and a certain number of the above localities allotted to each, with the understanding that they should either personally visit them, or, if this were found impracticable, correspond with parties on the spot who would be likely to feel an interest in the subject. At Napanee three lectures were delivered; at Belleville two; at Gananoque two; at about half-a-dozen other places one each. With some a correspondence was entered into which led to immediate and energetic action. In Perth, Brockville, Portsmouth and Bath, for example, meet-

It is ground of thankfulness that during the last session of Parliament 69 petitions were presented on the matter of the Post-office. Your Committee would take this opportunity of noticing that two or three of those committed to them for transmission to Head-quarters, were returned in consequence of an informality which, though seemingly slight in itself, nevertheless prevented their presentation. No *signatures were inserted on the original paper whereon the petition itself* was written. This is essential to rendering it transmissible. It would be well that in future this point of form be attended to by parties memorializing.

The past year has supplied at least one proof that the memorials from this, as well as other quarters of our country, have not been in vain. Towards the end of May last, a Bill was introduced by Mr Bell, ex-member for Lanark, which provided that no vessel should leave any of our principal ports with a mail on the Sabbath, and that the Post Office might be closed in any place on that day, for the delivery of letters, on a simple requisition of the local Council to that effect. The Bill came up for discussion in June, and was lost by a majority of *one*. Considering it was the first time the question was so directly brought under the notice of Parliament, and the powerful opposition with which it had to combat, the defeat was equivalent to a victory. Let us be stimulated by it to resume the agitation with fresh ardor, and to send to Quebec memorials more numerous and urgent than we have hitherto done to Toronto. We are backed by the testimony of the present British Postmaster General, who has already recorded it as his opinion, that the running of mails, and the delivery of letters on the Lord'sDay, is by no means essential. We are backed by the last American Postmaster General, who has said, "I should be gratified to see the transmission of the mails, as well as every other species of labor, suspended on the Sabbath." We are supported by the great fact that in the neighboring Republic, where business is carried on to such an extent, and "life in earnest" most fully realized, more than 80,000 miles of mails, which a few years ago ran on the Sabbath, have been stopped. Above all, we are supported by the precepts and promises of thatGod who has set, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," in the very centre of that decalogue whose every part reflects his seal.

Your Committee are also encouraged by adverting to the success that has already attended the efforts of the friends of the Sabbath, in sister Provinces. Some time ago a Sabbath Alliance was formed in Halifax, having branches in connection with it at various central posts throughout the surrounding country. In consequence of representations made through the medium of memorials and interviews had with the heads of the Executive, an order was issued last March by Sir John Harvey, Lt. Governor, that Sabbath labor in the Post Office should henceforth terminate throughout the limits of Nova Scotia.

From Prince Edward Island, too, a communication has just been received, in which this laconic paragraph is contained: "We have no Sabbath mail to, from, or on the Island." Let us hope the day is not far distant when a similar tale may be told respecting Canada.

The attention of your Committee has been recently directed to the subject of Sabbath traffic on the Canals. A sub-committee has been ap-

and we now comparatively rarely hear those sneers with which we were assailed a few years ago."

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Your Committee have to record the removal during the past year of one of their number who took a deep interest in the formation of this Society, but who, from the nature of his lingering disease, was necessarily prevented from taking an active part in the conducting of its affairs. Mr Daniel McLeod possessed not a little of the "meekness and gentleness of Christ." His amiable deportment, active benevolence, and unobtrusive piety, will not soon be forgotten by those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. We possess the satisfying assurance that he has entered on the enjoyment of those good things to come, of which the Sabbath is the shadow and symbol. "There remaineth therefore a *rest* for the people of God." "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: they *rest* from their labors."

Your Committee cannot conclude without expressing their conviction that never was there a period in the history either of the world in general or our own land in particular, when more prayerful and persevering effort was required in connexion with the Sabbath cause.

Clouds are now gathering over the political horizon of Europe, which seem to indicate that a storm is not far distant. Elements are at work, which if God avert not, may make the continent once more the theatre of a general war. It is only in the institutions and influences with which the Sabbath is associated—the benefits which the Sabbath confers, and the lessons which it is the great object of the Sabbath to inculcate—that our own illustrious empire will find an anchor sure and steadfast in the midst of that surging tempest which will shake the nations. Why does France now crouch beneath the heel of the nephew of Napoleon? Why for more than half a century, has she been seated on a heaving volcano, and exposed to the eruptions either of an insane democracy, or an iron despotism? Religion pure and undefiled has been in a great measure exiled from its borders. The Sabbath is a nonentity. Let Canada find in France a beacon. And should we not be stimulated and warned by the prospect that now exists in our own land of increased facilities of communication! *Railways* are *now* the order of the day. Ere long we may see an iron network spreading over our rising Province. Should trains be permitted to run on the Sabbath, with the mighty addition that will be thereby made to travel and traffic—an inroad will be effected within its sacred domain far more appaling than any we have hitherto witnessed. Let us gird on our armor afresh, and while straining every nerve to have labor on the Sabbath terminated in the Post Office, let us do what we can to prevent its being commenced on our Railways. Then may we expect our country to prosper, and God, even our own God, shall bless us.